A DECLARATION IN Answer to several lying Pamphlets concerning the Witch of WAPPING.

BEING

A more perfect Relation of the Arraignment, Condemnation, and Suffering of Jone Peterson, who was put to death on Munday the 12 of *April*, 1652.

SHEVVING

The Bloudy Plot and wicked Conspiracy of one *Abraham Vandenbemde*, *Thomas Crompton*, *Thomas Collet*, and others.

LONDON:
Printed in the Year, 1652.

A Declaration, In answer to severall lying Pamphlets concerning the witch of Wappin.

THe said *Abraham Vandenbemde* with other the said confederates (having laid a Plot to take away the life of Mrs. *Anne Levingston*, because the Lady *Powel* had given her an estate which some of them expected) in *December* last repaired to one *Jone Simpson*, and proffered her 10 *l.* in hand, and 500 *l.* more in Hillary term following, if she would swear that Mrs. *Levingston* had used sorcery & witchcraft to take away the Lady *Powels* life. And on the 10 of *Jan.* then following, one *Anne Hook* (who pretends her self to be a cunning woman) being imployed by the said confederates, did perswade her thereunto, offering her six score pounds, and half the money which the said *Vandenbemde* and the said *Crompton* were to give her and her husband for making their Affidavits, if she would do the like. But the said *Simpson* abhominating so wicked a practice, to take away an innocent Gentlewomans life, discovered the Plot; for which conspiracies of the said confederates, a speciall Supplicavit was granted out of Chancery, to bind them to the good behaviour

viour, and other legal profecutions are ſtill depending againſt them. But the ſaid confederates not reſting there (in further profecution of the Plot) did imploy the aforeſaid *Hook*, to procure witneſſes to ſwear what they deſired: who accordingly about *January* laſt came to the above-named *Jone Peterſon*, at her houſe in Spruce Iſland near Wapping, and there made offer of 100*l.* to her, to ſwear, that the ſaid Mrs. *Levingſton* had received from her (the ſaid *Peterſon*) certain powders, and bags of ſeeds, to help her in her law ſuits, and to provoke unlawfull love (as the ſaid *Jone Peterſon* did affirm before her triall.) But ſhe refuſing to do the ſame, the ſaid confederates to prevent the puniſhment, which juſtly and vnavoidably muſt have befallen them, in caſe the ſaid *Peterſon* ſhould have revealed this their practice, as *Simpſon* (before) had done the other, they lay a new deſign, to anticipate the ſame, as followeth.

On the 7th of *March* laſt, the ſaid confederates came to Wapping, and got a warrant from one Mr. *Waterton* a Juſtice of the Peace, to apprehend the ſaid *Peterſons* perſon, and to ſearch her houſe for Images of Clay, Hair, & Nails, which accordingly they did; but upon ſtrict ſearch and diligent inquiry could find no ſuch thing; whereupon the ſaid confederates carried her before the ſaid Juſtice, to have her examined where the ſaid *Vandenbemde*, *Collet* (their Solliciteur) and two or three other perſons whom they brought with them, ſate at the table as the Juſtices Clerks to take her examination, where the ſaid Juſtice examined the ſaid *Peterſon* upon oath (contrary to law) concerning her uſing of witchcraft and ſorcery to take away the life of the Lady *Powel* of *Chelſey*. To which ſhe anſwered, that ſhe never uſed ſorcery or Witch-craft, neither had ſhe ever heard of the Lady *Powel*, ſaving that not long before one *Anne Hook*

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(an Iriſh woman) came to her with one Goodwife *Garland* to have perſwaded her to have made ſuch an oath againſt Mrs. *Levingſton*, as ſhe the ſaid *Hook* her ſelf before had done, as the ſaid *Jone Peterſon* likewiſe did affirm before her death. Whereupon the ſaid Juſtice (contrary to law) gave order to ſearch her, which was done; but the ſearchers could find nothing on her body which might create the leaſt ſuſpition in them of her being a witch; whereupon the ſaid Juſtice took bayl for her appearance at the next Seſſions. And on the 14 of *March* following (being the Sabboth day) was by the ſaid confederates means, again apprehended, and examined a new, about the ſaid Lady *Powels* death. And the Argument whichthey then made uſe of to perſwade the ſaid *Peterſon* to confeſs, was, that ſhe needed not fear what ſhe confeſſed, for it was not her life they aimed at, but to have matter whereby to accuſe one Mrs. *Levingſton*, who had gotten the ſaid Lady *Powels* eſtate, and thereby had undone 36 Perſons of the ſaid Ladyes Kindred: And then told her, that they were ſhortly to queſtion the ſaid Mrs. *Levingſtone* for the ſame, either in the *Parliament* houſe, or before a Committee (as the ſaid *Jone Peterſon* did likewiſe affirme before her death.) Whereunto the ſaid *Jone Peterſon* replyed, thatſhe never knew, nor heard of the ſaid Lady *Powell*, otherwiſe as aforeſaid; And that ſhe had not heard from the ſaid Mrs. *Levingſtone* for a bove a yeare before that time: Then they cauſed her (contrary to Law) to be ſearched againe in a moſt unnaturall & Barbarous manner, by fower women whom they themſelves for that purpoſe had brought along with them, on of which women told the Juſtice that there was a Teat * of fleſh in her ſecret parts more then other women uſually had, whereupon the ſaid Juſtice committed her firſt to New-priſon and

* *Note that this Teat upon the view of the Phyſitians was the day before her*

and from thence to Newgate, where she was left to the ordering and mercy of one *Brooks*, a Keeper there, and an Agent of the said confederates.

On Munday the 5th. of *April* instant, two Bills of indictment were preferred against her at Hicks-hall, * and found by the Grand-Jury, upon which indictments upon the 6th. of *April*, she was arraigned before Mr. Recorder (who is of Councel for the conspirators,) and on the 7 of *Apr.* she was tried; at which triall the said confederates (who before had spent three weeks time at *Wapping* in procuring witnesses) were present, with three Councellors to prosecute the said *Peterson*. Then the Court proceeded upon the first indictment, which was for bewitching the Lady *Powel* to death; whereupon many women persons of mean degree (and of ill fame and reputation) were produced against her, and interrogated by the said Councel, according to the Briefs delivered unto them, wherein were all the witnesses testimonies, written before hand. And being asked what she had to say for her self? (upon her knees) she took God to witnesse that she never knew the Lady *Powel* nor the house where she dwelt, nor was any wise guilty of her death; and delivered a paper of such witnesses as she had to defend her, desiring that they might be called, whereupon Dr. *Bates*, and Dr. *Colledon* Physitians, together with Mr. *Stamford*, and Mr. *Page* Chyrurgians

her death found to be natural & lesse then in many other Women, & the said Physitians also affirmed that she was then quick with child.

* *Note, That* Sir Jo. Danvers, *Mr.* Snape, *Mr.* Winstanley, *and Mrs* Waterton *Justice. of the Peace were with the confederates at a Tavern near Hicks-hall, consulting when the Bill of Indictment was preparing, and that* Sir John Danvers *came and dined at the Sessions house and had much private discourse with the Recorder and many of the Justices and came and sate upon the Bench at her Trial, where he hath seldome or never been for these many years.*

rurgians, and divers other persons of good quality, testified the disease, manner of sickness, and the cause of the said Ladies death, which were the Dropsie, the Scurvey, and the yellow Jaundies, and that they wondred how she was able to live so long, having most of those diseases growing on her for many years before; amongst which evidences the innocency of (Mrs. *Levingstone*) formerly by the confederates maliciously aspersed and bespattered, was now fully vindicated, to their great astonishment, trouble, and disgrace.

Then the Court proceeded to the other Indictment, which was for bewitching one *Christopher Wilson* (who doth not himself complain of any such thing, but the Confederates only:) and the only materiall evidence that then was against her, was one *Margaret Austin* (who had formerly been a wandering person, but was in charity taken up, relieved, and kept, by the said *Jone Peterson*, until shee perceived that the said *Austin* had purloined some of her goods out of her house,) and two Witnesses more; the substance of whose Testimony was as followeth. That the said *Wilson*, having been a long time sick, and hearing that the said *Peterson* had done good to many, sent for her to come to him, who accordingly did: and administred meanes for his Recovery, which at first was conceived to do him good; But he afterwards relapsed, and the reason that was urged to induce the Court and Iury to believe that he was Bewitched, was, that dureing his sickness, shee sent to him for monyes for her Phisick; to whom Answer was returned that he could then send her none. Whereupon it was then deposed, that shee did reply, that he had better have sent her monies, for he should be 10 times worse then ever was; And that afterwards he became very ill again, and remained languishing. Many other witnesses were produced, but could only swear to generallities, hear-says, and most absurd

ſurd and rediculous impertinences: then being by the Court demanded what ſhe could ſay for her ſelfe? ſhe deſired that ſuch Witneſſes as ſhe had then there preſent, might be called (ſome of which durſt not appeare becauſe that the ſaid Mr. *Waterton*, (as the witneſſes them ſelves, doe and will affirme) had threatned to ſend them to *Newgate*, if they did appeare.) Whereupon ſeverall witneſſes were called, and being demanded what they could ſay for the Priſoner, they began to tell, that they had knowne her a long time, and that ſhe had done many Cures, and much good amongſt the Neighboures, but never knew that ſhe did any ill; But the Officers of the Court interrupted them. ſaying (in a taunting manner *Jare you for a Witch? and is this all you can ſay?* and ſo turned ſeverall of them away before they could be further heard. Then one came to the Court (a Stranger to the priſoner) and offered to depoſe, that one in black, called *Thomas Southwick* (knowne to be ſervant to *Thomas Cromton* another of the confederats) ſtood in the Seſſions yard, offering money to ſtrangers there, to come in and ſwear) that the ſaid *Peterſon* was a Wtich, and amongſt the reſt offered to give her mony if ſhe would doe the ſame, but he being called for, could not be had, nor would appeare, although Colonell *Okey*, and ſome other Juſtices upon the Bench, deſired the Recorder to take notice of it, and to give Order that the ſaid *Thomas Southwick* might be brought into Court. Whereupon the Jury went forth, and brought in their verdicts, that the ſaid *Peterſon* was not guilty upon the firſt Inditment of bewiching the Lady *Powell* to death; But found her guilty upon the ſecond, for which ſhe was then caſt, and the next day condemned to dye as a witch. And after that the ſaid confederates and their agents went very often to her promiſing her a Repreive or Pardon if ſhe would confeſſe

that

that Mrs. *Levingſtone* had Imployed her to make away the life of the Lady *Powell*, to which ſhe replyed ſhe could not, becauſe it was altogether falſe. But one of the ſaid confederates urging her againe to ſay ſomething againſt Mrs. *Levingſtone*, ſhe told him he was a rogue, and gave him a blow on the face, which made his noſe bleed: Where it is to be noted, that what for love of money they could not tempt her to, they reſolved at laſt for love of her life to force her to, by neceſſitating her either unjuſtly to confeſſe a notorious falſehood againſt the ſaid Mrs. *Levingſtone* or elſe to dye without mercy or Repreive, which otherwiſe was proffered her by the ſaid Confederates, to make her unjuſt in doing the ſame.

On the 12 day the ſaid *Jone Peterſon* (being brought to the place of Execution) was by the Ordinary nine or ten times earneſtly preſſed to confeſſe ſomething againſt the ſaid Mrs. *Levingſtone*: Whereupon the Executioner told the Ordinary, he might be aſhamed to trouble a dying woman ſo much, to which he replyed, he was commanded ſo to doe, and durſt doe no otherwiſe And afterwards the ſaid Ordinary ſtill inſiſting in his diſcourſe, and very often preſſing the ſaid *Peterſon* to confeſſe and diſcharge her conſcience before God and the world; ſhe anſwered that ſhe had already confeſſed before the Bench, all ſhe had to confeſſe; that ſhe had made her peace with God; and therefore deſired to dye in quiet, for now ſhe was to appeare before God who preſently would Judge her, and that God was witneſs, that ſhe dyed Innocently, and was in no wiſe guilty of what was laid to her charge, and that ſhe hoped he would freely forgive her all her ſins, and to this effect ſhe ſtill replyed to his frequent importunities: And having gone to prayers, ſhe ſhewed her ſelfe very attentive and penitent, and after Prayer called to ſing the 25th Pſalm, which ſhe performed very Chriſtianly and cheerfully, and ſo died, &c.

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The Copy of a Certificate under the hands of severall Doctors of Phisicke & Chirurgions concerning the death of the Lady Powell.

October the 8. 1651.

In the Body of the Lady *Powell*, who dyed the seventh of this instant, was observed,

The Skin universally discovered Yellow.

The Belly swolne very much, the Thighs also and Legs.

The Cavity of the Abdomen *possessed with yellowish obscure water, the quantity whereof not much above one Gallon and an half.*

The Stomack and Guts not dissafected, nor the Kidnies.

The Pancreas canceorus *in part, some part being degenerated into a feculent matter; like* Amurca *or dregs of oyle, yet contained in a* Ciste.

The Liver larger then it ought, black; of an unequal schirrous or rather Cancerous *substance,* exangues.

The Spleen joyned with the left part of the hollow of the liver, as if they were one body, very black, and hard outwardly, inwardly rotten.

The Gall large and full, but of a deeper Yellow, inclined to red and black matter.

In

In the cavity of the Breast or Thorax water of the same substance and colour neer a Gallon.

The Lungs something thicker and more discoloured then usual.

The heart well.

The Bones very easily broken.

Colladon.
George Bate.
Goddard.
George Chabrey.
} Phisitians.

Charles Stamford
Thomas Page.
} Chirurgians.

Besides the Apothecaries, and several other persons, who testified the same And are still ready to do the like.

Coll. Okey, *Coll.* Berkstead, *and divers other Justices of the Peace, both at Hixes hall, and at the old Baley, did declare themselves that they were not satisfied either with the proceedings, or proof against this Peterson, that she was guilty of witchcraft, but that there was a design in it, relating to the prejudice of Mrs.* Levingstone, *which they are ready to testifie to the Parliament when they shall be required thereunto.*

FINIS.

The Copy of a Certificate under the hands of ſeverall Doctors of Phiſicke & Chirurgions concerning the death of the Lady Powell.

October the 8. 1651.

In the Body of the Lady *Powell*, who dyed the ſeventh of this inſtant, was obſerved,

The Skin univerſally diſcovered Yellow.

The Belly ſwolne very much, the Thighs alſo and Legs.

The Cavity of the Abdomen *poſſeſſed with yellowiſh obſcure water, the quantity whereof not much above one Gallon and an half.*

The Stomack and Guts not diſſafected, nor the Kidnies.

The Pancreas canceorus *in part, ſome part being degenerated into a feculent matter; like* Amurca *or dregs of oyle, yet contained in a* Ciſte.

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FINIS.

P.L.80.